



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**November 30, 2006
For immediate release**

1. **EPC to hear information on water quantity issues; county objections to confinements**
2. Public asked to attend meeting on improving water quality in the North Fork Maquoketa River
3. Public's help needed to improve Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers; public meetings announced

EPC TO HEAR INFORMATION ON WATER QUANTITY ISSUES; COUNTY OBJECTIONS TO CONFINEMENTS

Media Contact: Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.

DES MOINES – The Environmental Protection Commission will learn more about the adequacy of Iowa's water resources at their Dec. 5 meeting in Des Moines.

"Adequate water supplies are one of the most fundamental ingredients for flourishing communities and a healthy economy," said Bob Libra, the DNR's state geologist. "However, the quantity, quality and demand for Iowa's water resources, both surface and ground water, are not distributed equally across the state."

Libra added that more information on geographic and seasonal water availability is needed for a sustainable water supply in the future.

Calhoun County and Crawford County have demanded a hearing with the EPC concerning proposals for three confinement feeding operations. The appointment with the Calhoun County Board of Supervisors will be at 1:45 p.m. and the Crawford County board's appointment will be at 2:45 p.m.

At 1 p.m., commissioners will consider a revised rule proposal limiting the amount of liquid manure that can be applied to fields being planted in soybeans to 100 pounds per acre. The limits would be in effect for five years, allowing time for more research on the environmental impacts of applying nitrogen to soybean crops. The proposal calls for a ban after five years if sound science does not support liquid manure application to soybeans as a good environmental practice.

Other appointments are scheduled for:

11 a.m. with the Environmental Recycling Co, Inc. - Referral to Attorney General,
4 p.m. with Midwest Investors of Renville Cooperative, dba Golden Oval Eggs
Cooperative - Referral to the Attorney General, and
4:45 p.m. with Miller Products Company - Referral to the Attorney General.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. at the DNR Air Quality Building, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 10 a.m.

The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Water Quantity Presentation
- Lake Nutrient Standards, Update of Activities
- Contract – University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory – Safe Lakes Project: Laboratory Services
- Contract – United States Geological Survey – Stream Gaging
- Contract – United States Geological Survey – Big Rivers Monitoring
- Contract – United States Geological Survey – Groundwater Monitoring
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund – 2007 Intended Use Plan Third Quarter Update
- Final Rule – Adopt IAC 567 Chapter 11– “Tax Certification of Pollution Control or Recycling Property”
- Final Rule– Amend IAC 567 Chapter 118– “Discarded Appliance Demanufacturing”
- Final Rule – Chapter 43: Water Supplies – Design and Operation – Construction Permit Fee Structure Rules
- Notice of Intended Action - Ch. 65 Subrule prohibiting liquid manure application to soybeans
- Notice of Intended Action – Ch. 103.3, 104.26, 112.31, 114.31, 115.31, 118.16, 120.13, 121.8, 122.28, 122.29 and 123.12 & to amend rules 105.14, 106.18 – Financial Assurance Requirements
- Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 81 – Operator Certification: Public Water Supply Systems And Wastewater Treatment Systems

- Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 64 – Sewer Extension Construction Permit Provisions
- Notice of Intended Action: Chapters 67 – Updates and Revisions
- Demand For Hearing: Calhoun County regarding a proposed swine confinement operation by Prestage Farms of Iowa.
- Demand For Hearing: Crawford County regarding two proposed swine confinement operations by Nebraska Pork Partners
- Referrals to the Attorney General
 - a) Miller Products Company (Osceola) - Wastewater
 - b) Midwest Investors of Renville Cooperative, dba Golden Oval Eggs Cooperative (Winnebago County) - Wastewater
 - c) Environmental Recycling Co., Inc. / Dwight Oglesbee (Masena) – Air Quality / Solid Waste / Contaminated Sites
- Proposed Rule: Chapter 22, Special Requirements for Visibility Protection
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 22 (Air Construction Permitting Exemption)
- Proposed Rule: Chapters 28, Update to Ambient Air Quality Standards
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
 - Upcoming Meetings
 - January 2, 2007 – Des Moines
- Items for next month's meeting

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at www.iowadnr.com.

The members of the commission are Jerry Peckumn, chair, Jefferson; Francis Thicke, vice chair, Fairfield; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; Henry Marquard, Muscatine and Darrell Hanson, Manchester. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

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PUBLIC ASKED TO ATTEND MEETING ON IMPROVING WATER QUALITY IN THE NORTH FORK MAQUOKETA RIVER

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or Chris.VanGorp@dnr.state.ia.us

DES MOINES – The DNR is reminding residents of the North Fork Maquoketa River basin to attend an upcoming public meeting and provide input to the DNR on improving the river.

The DNR will hold a public meeting to gather Iowans' input at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 at the New Vienna Mutual Insurance Building, located at 7218 Columbus St. in New Vienna.

The North Fork Maquoketa River is on the state's impaired waters list due to sedimentation, nutrients and ammonia levels that adversely impact aquatic life in the stream. The river's designated use is for maintaining aquatic life, like fish, but long-term monitoring has indicated lower than expected aquatic life diversity and population in the river.

The DNR has developed a draft water quality improvement plan, also known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load, for the river. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The water quality improvement plan includes information on how conservation efforts in the watershed can improve water quality.

Iowans unable to attend the meeting can submit comments on the draft plan until Dec. 18 via e-mail, phone or mail:

Internet: www.iowadnr.gov/water/watershed/tmdl/publicnotice.html

E-mail: chris.vangorp@dnr.state.ia.us

Telephone: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791

Mail: Chris Van Gorp, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After receiving public comments, the DNR will forward the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

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PUBLIC'S HELP NEEDED TO IMPROVE RACCOON AND DES MOINES RIVERS; PUBLIC MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

MEDIA CONTACT: Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791 or
Chris.VanGorp@dnr.state.ia.us

DES MOINES — The DNR is reminding residents of the Raccoon River and Des Moines River basins to attend upcoming public meetings and provide input to the DNR on improving the rivers.

The DNR is developing water quality improvement plans for the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers. The DNR will hold five public meetings to explain the process of developing the plans and to answer questions. In addition, the DNR seeks the public's comments and assistance in identifying causes and solutions to the problems in the basins. The meetings will be held:

East Fork Des Moines River

- Algona: Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Algona Public Library, 210 N. Phillips

Raccoon River

- Jefferson: Dec. 7, 3 p.m., Jefferson Community Center, 204 W. Harrison
- Sac City: Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m., Sac City Community Building, 1015 W. Main St.
- Guthrie Center: Dec. 11, 6 p.m., Springbrook Education Center (north of Guthrie Center on F-25)

Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers

- Des Moines: Dec. 13, 6 p.m., Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 Robert D. Ray Dr.

Portions of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers are impaired by high levels of bacteria and nitrates. High levels of bacteria can cause people recreating in the rivers to become sick. Elevated nitrate levels cause problems with using the rivers as a drinking water source, including thousands of people in the Des Moines metro area. However, the situation cannot be fixed without the help of people upstream who can address the water quality in their local streams. Citizen involvement is critical to achieve water quality goals in these watersheds and across the state.

With public help, water quality improvement plans, also known as a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), are being developed to address waters across the state considered as “impaired.” The DNR calculates how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still maintain its designated use such as maintaining aquatic life, allowing body contact such as swimming or being used as a drinking water supply. Then it is up to people living in the river basins to develop and implement the plans.